MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING OF THE BARRINGTON AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Held in the South Barrington Village Hall
February 28, 2017

Members Present:  Karen Darch - Barrington; Paula McCombie - South Barrington; Martin McLaughlin - Barrington Hills; Chris Mitchell - Lake Barrington (Alternate); Amy Nykaza - Barrington Township; David Parro - Tower Lakes; Al Pino - North Barrington

Members Absent:  David Nelson - Cuba Township

Staff Present:  Janet Agnoletti - Executive Director; Jenny Zales - Program Coordinator

Others Present:  Joe Abbate - South Barrington; Brian Battle - Barrington 220; Nancy Schumm - Flint Creek/Spring Creek Watershed Partnership; Al Stefan - Robinson Engineering; Craig Taylor - Lake County Board Member; Tom Wilbeck - McHenry County Board Member

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pino at 7:09 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call attendance with all members except Nelson present.

DISCUSSION WITH INVITED LEGISLATORS

Tom Wilbeck, McHenry County Board Member, District #1
In the area of water resources, Wilbeck informed the Board that McHenry County hired a water resources person and the county is participating in a study of the Fox River corridor to minimize flooding and reduce flood insurance costs. He reported on several current and future transportation projects and mentioned that in the spring the county will pilot a program using services such as Uber to transport seniors. He concluded with information about economic developments in the county such as Mercy Hospital constructing a “micro” hospital in the area.

Mitchell added that Lake Barrington is asking residents to complete a survey about priorities for the Fox River.

Craig Taylor, Lake County Board Member, District #19
Taylor reported that Lake County recently passed a $500 million budget, up 1% from last year and has continued to reduce staff. Some funds are being set aside in case state funds to the county are reduced. One expense has been working to bring Lake Michigan water to areas with insufficient quantities of well water. The county has maintained a AAA bond rating for 20 years which keeps interest rates down on bonds. Shared services are very important to the county, he continued, and the county is always looking for partners.

Transportation issues remain a priority, he stated, with $500 million in projects expected over the next six years. He highlighted the county’s PASSAGE program which provides motorists with real-time traffic information. Taylor concluded his remarks by outlining several other upcoming projects in the county, including a new courthouse in Waukegan and a hazard plan update concerning stormwater management.

Pino asked Taylor for more information about which communities are still planning to obtain Lake Michigan water, and Taylor responded that Lakewood Park has a great need for lake water, as does the Volo loop through Hawthorn Woods, although due to a lack of funding, the project stops at Fox Lake.

COMMUNITY REPORTS/PUBLIC COMMENT
There was no public comment.

Nancy Schumm, Flint Creek/Spring Creek Watershed Partnership
Schumm reported that the two watersheds’ initiatives have merged and plans are being updated consistent with Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) guidelines. A primary benefit to watershed planning is that communities who are members, at an annual cost of $1,500, and add their needs and goal projects to the updated plans are eligible for Section 319 Grants through the state. The watershed partnership will host a program on March 14th about what is in the local streams.

Brian Battle, Board President, Barrington 220
Battle detailed a proposal for a proposed housing development near the intersection of routes 59 and 72 which would be projected to add between 600-700 students to the district, necessitating capital costs estimated at $55 million and an increase of $10 million in operating costs. If a new elementary school is needed, by law a referendum would be required. Barrington 220, along with District 300, continue to work together and are seeking more information from the developer about major issues such as the impact of the development on traffic. He said the annexation agreement to Hoffman Estates will give the development Tax Increment Financing (TIF) whereby taxes are frozen at current (undeveloped) values for 20 years or longer. He also said the development impact fees expected to be charged by Hoffman Estates are not nearly enough to cover student and staffing costs.

As asked by Pino how district boundaries are set, Battle replied that there is not necessarily a logic to it but that if both districts agreed, the boundaries could be changed. In response to McCombie’s question about Tax Increment Financing (TIF) revenues, Battle replied that residential areas receiving a TIF designation is rare and no substantial revenues would go to the school districts from TIF.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES OF JANUARY 24, 2017
On a motion by McLaughlin and a second by McCombie the minutes of January 24, 2017 were unanimously approved.

TREASURER’S REPORTS FOR FEBRUARY 2017
On a motion by McCombie and a second by Darch, the Treasurer’s Reports for February 2017 were unanimously approved on a roll call vote.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT
Chairman McLaughlin reported that the committee evaluated whether BACOG needs a financial review or audit, and there was consensus that BACOG will request two firms to provide a proposal for a cost estimate for an audit or a review. There was also discussion about utilizing a “trigger mechanism,” such as when expenses or revenues are different from normal, which would necessitate an audit. The committee also touched upon the use of cash reserves to support BACOG in the future and there was agreement that member dues structure should be discussed by the Policy Committee. Finally, Agnoletti identified several potential budget adjustments for the next fiscal year such as the purchase of a new laptop computer, salaries, and potential changes in costs and methods for the groundwater monitoring program.

POLICY AND LONG RANGE COMMITTEE REPORT
Chairwoman McCombie said that there was nothing to report at this time and noted that the committee’s next meeting would be held on March 28 at 5:30pm in South Barrington.
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT
Chairwoman Darch stated that the Legislative Breakfast BACOG co-hosted with the Lake County Municipal League (LCML) in February was well-attended, but suggested that for future co-sponsored events, there needs to be more clarity about the program and how the legislative agendas are presented.

Responding to members’ comments expressing frustration about the lack of a state budget, Agnoletti reported that the Illinois Municipal League (IML) is not very optimistic that a budget will be passed. She provided an update about the small wireless facilities bill (HB 1451) which is still being negotiated by Senator Link, the IML and others. Consistent with BACOG’s decision to place an additional focus to environmental bills, in addition to pursuing groundwater funding, BACOG is tracking two bills concerning milkweed and two bills calling for a state-wide ban on coal tar. One of the coal tar bills, HB 2958, now has an amendment adding the BACOG resolution’s language to expand the ban to include other products high in polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH). She also reported on arrangements for the upcoming lobby days in Springfield and noted the October legislative breakfast date was changed to October 4th.

Approval of 2017 BACOG Legislative Platform
On a motion by Darch and a second by McLaughlin, BACOG’s 2017 Legislative Platform was unanimously approved.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Agnoletti summarized several BACOG program developments including Quintessential Barrington’s publication of an article on the hazards of coal tar and other high PAH sealants, her outreach to the North Shore-Barrington Association of Realtors with a webinar for realtors about private wells and septic, working with Healthier Barrington to revise the community survey questions on groundwater, and the application to Chicago Wilderness for recognition of BACOG’s groundwater video. She distributed copies of a letter from the Illinois State Water Survey written for the nomination that commends BACOG’s groundwater efforts. She concluded that new officials’ training is scheduled to take place on May 10 and will be presented by Keri-Lyn Krafithefer of Ancel Glink.

There was nothing to report concerning emergency management.

WATER RESOURCES INITIATIVE AND COMMITTEE REPORT
McCombie reported that the next Northwest Water Planning Alliance meeting will take place on March 9.

APPOINTMENT OF JENNY ZALES TO THE POSITION OF BOARD SECRETARY
Agnoletti commended Zales on her work in the BACOG office. On a motion by McLaughlin and a second by Nykaza the appointment of Zales to Board Secretary was unanimously approved.

PRESIDENTS’ AND SUPERVISORS’ REPORTS
Lake Barrington
Mitchell reported the Village is completing an assessment of its assets such as parking lots to incorporate into a 5-year plan.
Barrington
Darch said that Barrington passed revisions to its comprehensive plan to address signage consistent with the Supreme Court decision that content cannot be regulated and added that in State of the Village address she delivered the night before, she pointed out that tax bills now must show pension liability as “debt”, a change from previous years, which makes Village debt appear substantially higher. The change is a result of new reporting requirements of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Rule 68. Celtic Fest is March 17-18.

South Barrington
McCombie reported that the village is developing policies in response to numerous requests received to construct cell phone towers.

North Barrington
Pino noted that of the five people running for three trustee position in the upcoming election, two are incumbents.

Barrington Township
Nykaza mentioned that Cook County taxes are due March 4, and reported that the Township will include BACOG’s coal tar and other high PAH sealant information in its newsletter.

Barrington Hills
In addition to the launch of its new website, McLaughlin reported that he has met with area realtors to promote the Village but not at the expense of the larger BACOG community. He encouraged members’ participation in Advance Barrington and urged members to think about how to differentiate the BACOG area from other communities. He also mentioned on police staffing and their labor contract that allows part-time officers. Their officers participate in cross-training.

Tower Lakes
Parro had no report.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Darch and a second by Parro the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jenny Zales